

**Kathy Hunn**

---

**From:** mary mctaggart [cavelanding@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2008 10:48 AM  
**To:** Kathy Hunn  
**Subject:** April 30 BDCP Scoping Meeting comments

BDCP Scoping Meeting - April 30, 2008

Comments submitted by Mary McTaggart, local resident, representing 90+ year-old parents having small farm holdings in the Lisbon and Pierson Districts of the Delta.

To quote the November 2007 draft of the Delta Vision Report, "When levees were built, most celebrated the new farmland, and few thought of what might be lost"(p.3). The big danger I see in the BDCP process is that once again, in our zeal to, in this case, return large areas of the Delta to their former state, people will lose sight of what will now be lost - some of the richest, most productive farmland anywhere. To further emphasize the point, consider a news item appearing in today's Sacramento Bee ("Biofuel divides grocers, growers") quoting three international food scientists who said that countries need to rethink diverting farmland to non-food uses because we are in the midst of a world-wide food crisis. They were referring to ethanol production, but the same could be said of the present project proposing to flood farmland.

Another issue concerns me, which is the promotion of wildlife-friendly farming practices. I'm skeptical whether economically viable agriculture results from such arrangements. The instituting of conservation easements on farmland requires the farmer to take on another, perhaps not-so-silent, partner in his farming, with the result that decisions regarding that farming will no longer focus primarily on production. If you had driven around this area two years ago, you would have seen hardly a field of wheat anywhere. Today, there are wheat-fields all over the place because of the great need on the world market for this commodity. If a farmer has as his partner in a conservation easement a government entity, how quickly will he be able to make such decisions, given that government has the reputation of taking years to get things done?

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG.

Version: 7.5.524 / Virus Database: 269.24.1/1468 - Release Date: 5/26/2008 3:23 PM

5/27/2008